



Visual Artist Angela Babby: Enameled art glass mosaic on cement board

Angela Babby's ancestral heritage is at the heart of her commitment to art as a vocation. Smoke, Red Cloud, Shot in the Eye, Woodpecker, Crow Feather and Her Many Pipes – all names in her family background – create a vision of a time filled with challenge, change and natural spirituality to which she feels a powerful connection. (Babby's family is from Pine Ridge, SD, where she is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.)

Art glass brings a sparkling dimension to Babby's work. She sees the numinous qualities of nature captured in the iridescence and saturated color of the glass. This medium allows her to push the limits of reality by juxtaposing the real, expressed by her expertly rendered glass on glass kiln-fired portraits, with the unreal, heavily iridized ripple glass expressing an oil slick on the ocean. Vivid colors cause an emotional reaction in the viewer and the carefully crafted bead- or quill-work details create the impression of a painting. These incongruities make the work interesting, unique and multifaceted.

"Using modern colors and iridescent glasses I combined unexpected materials to reflect the dire nature of the subject. This work caused me to wonder what effect a more detailed face could have upon the overall effect of my work."

"I started to enamel details by painting the glass pieces with a material similar to pottery slip and firing them in a kiln to over 1,000 degrees. This ancient technique becomes fresh and modern when coupled with vivid colors and patterns."

The visual arts panel particularly responded to Babby's use of traditional Native American figures in such a non-traditional way. They felt that the mix of her painting technique and other approaches made her work fresh and unique in technique and style. The panel considered her combination of finely rendered detail with geometric color pattern very innovative and effective.